The VIU community acknowledges and thanks the Snuneymuxw, Quw’utsun, Snaw-naw-as, and Tla’amin, on whose traditional lands we teach, learn, research, live, and share knowledge.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute (MABRRI) at Vancouver Island University (VIU) conducted all of the primary research and report writing for this project. This research has been conducted under the supervision and guidance of MABRRI Research Director, Dr. Pamela Shaw PhD MCIP RPP FRCGS, and was supported by Graham Sakaki MCP, MABRRI Research and Community Engagement Coordinator, and Larissa Thelin, former MABRRI Assistant Research and Community Engagement Coordinator.

We would first like to thank Dr. Ralph Nilson, former President and Vice-Chancellor of VIU, for initiating the project and providing us with this opportunity, as well as for his support throughout the process. We extend our gratification to the Office of the President and VIU’s current President and Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Deborah Saucier, for the continued support of this project.

We would also like to thank Robin McLay, Senior Advisor to the President, Patrick Brennan, Special Advisor to the President, Margot Croft and Don Alexander, Co-Chairs of the Sustainability Advisory Committee, and Darrell Harvey, International Projects & Internationalization Coordinator, for their advice and support. A thank you is also extended to Greg Cran, Michael Lait, Alison Taplay, Lynda Albury, Marla Morden, Chelsea Caul, and others, for their support and assistance in organizing an event at the Powell River campus. We also wish to thank everyone who presented at our events: Mark Holland, Rebecca Mellett, Anastasia Lukyanova, Vivien Goss, Claudia Medina, Wendy Drummond, Emma Levez Larocque, Stuart Clark, Jack Anderson, and Mike Simpson.

Finally, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the faculty and staff of VIU that generously volunteered their time to meet with us and to provide valuable information for this study, and to all VIU community members who attended and volunteered at engagement events and provided recommendations for this project.
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In 2015, the United Nations (UN) gathered at a 3-day summit, bringing together over 150 world leaders to collaborate on the development of goals that would improve the quality of life for all people. These goals were dubbed the **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. The SDGs are part of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and are applicable to all countries. The 17 Goals are a call to all nations—regardless of economic status—to take action towards fostering the social, economic, and cultural prosperity of their citizens while simultaneously caring for and protecting the earth.

"[The SDGs] recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth—while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests."

Although the SDGs are often only understood at a national level, the cooperation of many different sectors is essential for these ambitious Goals to be achieved.

Each Goal is broken down into targets and indicators...

For example:

- **Target 1.1** By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day.
- **Indicator 1.1.1** Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location.

**total of:** 17 goals, 169 targets, 230+ indicators

These targets and indicators help nations measure their progress.
Established in **1936**
Malaspina College — Vancouver Island University in 2008

VIU is a special purpose, **teaching university** with a goal of promoting excellence in learning through sustainable cultural, economic, environmental, and social prosperity. The University’s seven core values — **LEARNING, DISCOVERY, ENGAGEMENT, ACHIEVEMENT, DIVERSITY, CELEBRATION, AND SUSTAINABILITY** — are upheld through objectives that ensure program quality, community engagement, and institutional effectiveness.

VIU prides itself in being a place that contributes to stronger and healthier communities through fair access, the provision of regionally relevant programming, and a focus on student and staff achievement. In order to realize this, VIU is constantly reviewing its current sustainability status and seeking ways to continually improve, ever increasing the view of VIU as a desirable place to work and learn.

**2018/2019**

- **14,324** students
  - **378** students received Master’s Degrees
  - **836** students received Bachelor’s Degrees
- **1,301** employees
  - **563** instructional
  - **738** non-instructional

4 campus locations:
- Nanaimo
- Powell River
- Cowichan
- Parksville
VIU AND THE SDGS

With nations worldwide striving to meet the 17 UN SDGs by 2030, this study aims to investigate how an educational institution can play its part in helping Canada achieve the goals. The project is a collaboration between VIU’s Office of the President and Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute (MABRRI), a research institute located at VIU’s Nanaimo campus that aligns its research goals with the University’s pillars of sustainability.

This study has two primary objectives:

1. to examine what VIU is doing to currently meet the SDGs; and
2. to develop a list of recommendations that aim to assist the University in directing its efforts to continue to meet the SDGs in the future.

This document summarizes the findings of the first objective, which was achieved through a thorough review of VIU’s educational and research foci, services, infrastructure, and community engagement initiatives. As a highlight report, this summary provides only a few examples of ways in which VIU is meeting the SDGs and has included a combination of initiatives across different scales within the Institution. A full report along with a summary of findings of the second objective can be found on MABRRI’s website.
SDGs and the 5 P’s of Sustainable Development

The UN SDGs are unified and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: environmental, social, and economic. These dimensions are further categorized into areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet, known as the 5 P’s of Sustainable Development:

People — end poverty and hunger in all forms, ensuring dignity and equality in a healthy environment.

Planet — protect the planet from further degradation through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing natural resources, and taking urgent action on climate change.

Prosperity — ensure that everyone can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social, and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.

Peace — foster peace, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

Partnership — mobilize the means required to implement Agenda 2030 through a global partnership, based on global solidarity with participation from all countries, all stakeholders, and all people.

How VIU contributes to the SDGS

This document addresses each of the SDGs as they relate to the 5 P’s. Due to the interconnectedness of the SDGs, as well as the VIU initiatives that relate to them, the ways in which VIU is currently contributing to the SDGs are outlined by which overarching university component they relate to. A small selection of examples of VIU initiatives are used to demonstrate some of the University’s sustainable development achievements.
Over 700 million people across the world live in extreme poverty and struggle to fulfill basic needs such as health, education, and access to water and sanitation.7,8

13% (4.6 million) of Canadians are of low-income status.

Between 2011 and 2012, 8.4% of Canadian households (or more than 2 million people) reported experiencing food insecurity.9,10

Global Employers

40% agriculture — largest employer in the world

While more people today are living healthier lives than in the past, many people are still dying prematurely from preventable diseases.11

In 2015, 303,000 women died during pregnancy or childbirth across the world.11
ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Even though more children than ever are going to school, more than half the children in the world are still not receiving QUALITY EDUCATION\textsuperscript{12}.

| 617 million youth worldwide lack basic mathematics and literacy skills\textsuperscript{13}. |

ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

Canadians are among the most educated.

Canadians who have completed post-secondary education, 54% BUT...

inequalities from factors such as gender and urban-rural locations still impact Canadian citizens\textsuperscript{9}.

ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

Gender equality, as a fundamental human right, provides a foundation for peace, prosperity, and sustainability, however, WOMEN ARE STILL HELD BACK IN MANY WAYS.

Of the 195 countries in the world\textsuperscript{14}...

- In 39 countries, daughters and sons do not have equal inheritance rights.
- In 18 countries, husbands can legally prevent their wives from working.
- 49 countries lack laws protecting women from domestic violence.

WATER SCARCITY, POOR WATER QUALITY, AND INADEQUATE SANITATION negatively impact food security, livelihood choices, and educational opportunities across the world\textsuperscript{15}.

In Canada, Indigenous peoples and remote communities have experienced long-standing health issues related to poor water and sanitation\textsuperscript{9}.

- 40% of the world faces water scarcity.
- 1.7 billion people are currently living in river basins where water use exceeds recharge.

In Canada, Indigenous peoples and remote communities have experienced long-standing health issues related to poor water and sanitation\textsuperscript{9}.
HOW VIU CONTRIBUTES TO THE SDGS FOR THE PEOPLE

A university functions by working across multiple scales and disciplines. To gain a full understanding of how VIU is achieving the SDGs, a whole-university approach was taken in this study, aiming to include all components of VIU:

Through **education** and **research**, this study looked at how VIU programs and courses are educating students on topics related to the SDGs, as well as how research and creative activity may be advancing the SDGs.

Some of these efforts were also strengthened through **community engagement**, with both the VIU and surrounding communities.

The variety in **infrastructure** across VIU campuses and facilities was also looked into, to understand how accessible and inclusive physical spaces at VIU are.

University **services** are an integral part of how an institution functions, so an investigation into VIU and the SDGs would not be complete without looking into the services that maintain VIU’s daily operations and those that are available to students and employees.

Although this whole-university approach was taken, MABRRI researchers were not able to collect an entirely comprehensive compilation of data, due to the ever-changing nature of a university and VIU’s size in comparison to the research team. Therefore, the data shown throughout this report is based solely on what was collected through meetings with faculty and staff and what was available through VIU websites.

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</table>
REDUCING THE POVERTY CYCLE WITH ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Tuition Waiver Program

VIU was the first post-secondary institution in BC to introduce the Tuition Waiver program, providing cost-free education to students who have been in foster care.16,17

launched in 2013

181 students

45 have graduated through the program

VII acknowledges that Indigenous youth typically face many barriers to education, with the primary barrier being related to financial limitations.

EleV

The MasterCard Foundation supports VIU to offer EleV, a program which expands initiatives that work with communities to remove educational barriers for Indigenous youth.18

The program matches funding provided by Band Offices, while also providing scholarships, career advising, and social and cultural support through Indigenous Education Navigators.19

VIU addresses this by hosting and celebrating Global Engagement events:

- Global Citizens Week
- WorldVIU Days
- International Women’s Day
- International Refugee Day

To ensure achievement of the SDGs, all people need to be aware of sustainable development, regardless of culture or background.

Programs & Courses

Multi-generational learning

Dual Credit program

A partnership with the local school district provides high school students with the opportunity to take VIU courses.

540 students (2017/18)17

ElderCollege

Provides a variety of courses and speaker series for older populations.

2,030 enrollments (2018/19)

Love of Learning program

Allows any member of the public to take a VIU course without the requirements of grading or receiving credit.20

TARGET 1.1 By 2030, eradicate poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day.

TARGET 4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote and appreciate sustainable development in all its forms.
VIU Farmer’s Market

Held once a week on the Nanaimo campus, the market supports local farmers and provides healthy food to the VIU community.

The market provides VIU’s WEST students opportunities to learn interpersonal and employability skills. Also, 25% of the sales goes to WEST program21.

VIU Water Pledge

Implemented in 2013

Eliminated the sale and use of single-use plastic water bottles and promotes water refilling stations22.

VIU’s Resource Management Officer Technology program annually monitors streams within the RDN to assess the health of water systems and their surrounding ecosystems.

Since 2008, students have undertaken field work and laboratory analyses to monitor water quality parameters and stream invertebrate populations in order to identify any environmental changes that may be occurring and inform potential management practices25.

Food for Thought

Located on the Powell River campus, Food for Thought, is a café run by a non-profit employment program that serves homemade soups and sandwiches23.

Farm Table Restaurant

The Culinary Arts program at the Cowichan campus, in partnership with Providence Farm, runs the Farm Table Restaurant which offers a farm-to-table experience24.

100% locally sourced food
Graduates from VIU’s Health and Human Services programs contribute to an increasing number of skilled health workers each year.

**A Sound Constitution**
A radio show hosted by VIU’s Nursing students on CHLY 101.7, discusses current health trends, holistic approaches to health, and debunks mythical information.

**Opioid Research**
VIU’s AERL (Applied Environmental Research Laboratories) and Chemistry program have used mass spectrometry to develop a breakthrough opioid drug testing method to reduce overdoses by rapidly detecting trace amounts of toxic substances such as fentanyl or carfentanil. These methods were proven efficient when tested in 2019 during an on-site drug testing trial in Vancouver.

**PROMOTING HEALTHY LIVES**

**A Sound Constitution**

**Equal representation at VIU?**

- **3 out of 6** of VIU’s Executive team are women
- **4 out of 6** of VIU’s Senior Administrators are women

**60 Managerial positions**

- **40**

**26 Deans**

- **19**

Through ongoing assessment of employee statistics, VIU Human Resources has noticed a shift in gender-based representation at VIU over the last few years with women now being well represented at VIU.

**16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence**
The VIU community shows support for survivors and allies of gender-based violence and sexism by participating in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence, facilitated by the VIU Students’ Union.

**SUPPORTING WOMEN AND PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY**

**Target 3.5**
Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.

**Target 3.C**
Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training, and retention of the health workforce.

**Target 5.1**
End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

**Promoting Healthy Lives**

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Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training, and retention of the health workforce.

**Target 5.1**
End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.
To keep up with current lifestyles, we would need the equivalent of 3 planets worth of resources!

In association with increased greenhouse gas concentrations, oceans have also warmed, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished, sea level has risen, and extreme weather events are more frequent.

Between 1999 and 2013, 24 million square kilometers, or one fifth, of Earth’s land surface showed persistent DECLINE IN BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTIVITY.

As a nation that houses 9% of the world’s forests, land and biodiversity are essential components of Canadian culture and economics.

Yet, human impacts are compromising the bioavailability of oceans as COASTAL WATERS ARE DETERIORATING DUE TO POLLUTION AND EUTROPHICATION.
## How VIU contributes to the SDGs for the Planet

### Waste Reduction and Resource Management

**Fibre Space**

In Powell River, Fibre Space acts as an open community space located on the VIU campus that aims to bring together individuals who have an interest in reducing their material footprint. At Fibre Space, community members can upcycle garments into new clothes and textiles, work collaboratively, and learn the basics of working with textiles.

### Programs & Courses

**Specialized Resource Management stream in Geography**

- Resource Management Officer Technology Diploma
- Bachelor’s Degree in Natural Resource Protection
- Natural Resource Extension Program
- First Nations Stewardship Technicians Training Program

---

**Target 12.2** By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

**Target 12.5** By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.
Target 13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

**ACER**

Student-led group, Awareness of Climate Change through Education and Research (ACER) provides cost-free presentations to the VIU and surrounding community on climate change and the environmental, social, cultural, and economic factors associated with it.

**SINCE 2008…**

- 20 presentations per year
- 17,000 people reached

**ALSO**

Every year, ACER hosts a symposium on topics related to climate change. Previous topics have included: how policies impact climate change and the relationship between climate change and human health.

**Coastal Hydrology And Climate Change Research Lab**

The Coastal Hydrology and Climate Change Research Lab is involved in research that focuses on the impacts of climate change on coastal watersheds in BC. The Lab has expanded weather and water observation networks in remote areas of BC – Haida Gwaii, Central Coast, and South Coast - with real-time weather stations that contribute to climate change analysis and natural resource science and management.

**Carbon Neutral Action Report**

VIU produces an annual Carbon Neutral Action Report that illustrates the amount of greenhouse gases emitted each year.

- **3,034 tonnes**
- **2017**
- **2,995 tonnes**
- **2018**

VIU's GHG emissions.
PROTECTING, PRESERVING, AND RESTORING TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

Shellfish Health and Genomics Research

VIU’s Canada Research Chair in Shellfish Health and Genomics is researching diseases in Pacific oysters that are linked to climate change and ways to make oysters more resilient to environmental changes. The Research Chair has already discovered a method to help oysters and their offspring become less susceptible to climate change-induced diseases.

Forage Fish Spawning Habitat Monitoring

With help from citizen scientists, MABRRRI has been sampling for forage fish embryos along the coastline of Vancouver Island since 2018. This research aims to identify potential forage fish spawning habitats and inform management on habitat protection and conservation where needed.

In 2019 VIU was designated a BEE CAMPUS being the 7th post-secondary institute across Canada to do so.

Programs & Courses

- **BIO 362** (Biological Oceanography)
- **RMOT 200** (BC Fisheries)
- **RMOT 400** (Fisheries Conservation and Management)

**Fisheries & Aquaculture program**

**Land-based Sustainability**

Offered on VIU’s Cowichan campus this course has Elders from Cowichan Tribes teach a holistic, experiential, and land-based approach to sustainability.

**Target 14.2** By 2020, sustainably manage, protect, and strengthen the resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems and take action for their restoration.

**Target 15.5** Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.

**Bird Banding Project**

Biology and RMOT students are engaged in VIU’s Bird Banding Project, which conducts bird monitoring and banding programs in the VIU region to contribute to understanding declines in Canada’s bird populations.

Biology students have also conducted the Bird-Window Collision project, that identified buildings on the Nanaimo campus which have proven to be problematic for causing significant bird deaths.
Canada is one of the largest per capita consumers of energy, through use of hydro power, fossil fuels, and nuclear technology. Despite their increasing presence in public life, women continue to do 2.6 times the unpaid care and domestic work that men do.

In Canada, industry is strong due to the rich natural resources in the country and long history in manufacturing. However, a changing economy has encouraged the Canadian government to shift its approach and double its public infrastructure funding to generate long-term economic growth.

In 2018, 20% of the world’s youth were NOT ENGAGED IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, OR TRAINING. Despite their increasing presence in public life, women continue to do 2.6 times the unpaid care and domestic work that men do.

ADDITIONALLY...

In 40 out of 45 countries, men earn 12.5% more than women.
HOW VIU CONTRIBUTES TO THE SDGS FOR PROSPERITY

CLEAN AND EFFICIENT ENERGY

The Canada Green Building Council’s LEED® green building program certifies buildings that were designed to use less energy and water, avoid waste and save on maintenance costs, and create improved indoor air quality.17

On the Nanaimo campus 2 buildings are LEED® certified:
- Building 210
- Building 250

VIU’s Cowichan campus is LEED® certified. The campus uses daylight for 90% of its lighting source, a green roof AND a geo-exchange system (which is also used on the Nanaimo campus)

Deep Bay Marine Field Station is LEED® Platinum certified and won the National Green Building Award from the Sustainable Architecture and Building Magazine in 2011 for its use of green technologies. The Field Station was constructed with a high proportion of recycled and renewable materials. It uses crushed oyster shells instead of asphalt for the roadways and parking.

Target 7.2: By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

Target 7.3: By 2030, double the global rate of improvement of energy efficiency.
INNOVATION, SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

In 2018/2019 VIU had:

1,301 employees

656 students were employed on campus

Of these... 266 were work-ops

371 were employed through individual departments

19 were employed through Canada Summer Jobs funding

WEST Program

The Workplace Essential Skills and Training (WEST) program is designed for students with developmental and cognitive disabilities, as well as those with self-disclosed barriers to employment. The program provides employability skills training. At least 50% of graduates from the program obtain employment and the rest go into volunteer work or continue in post-secondary studies.

Research Week and CREATE

Research Week at VIU shares and celebrates student scholarship and research through several events. During this week, VIU hosts the annual CREATE Conference, which provides students an opportunity to present their research.

2019 CREATE had:

340 student participants

25 faculty presentations

VIU has partnered with Innovation Island to offer VI Solutions, an initiative that aims to match organizations with students from different backgrounds to explore business opportunities and challenges.

An existing labour gap was identified across Vancouver Island in 2018, which VI Solutions aims to respond to. For students, this initiative provides opportunities to develop solutions, concepts, and sustainable business ideas supporting a variety of social innovation or social enterprise models. Community partners that engage in the initiative also benefit through gaining creative solutions and innovative ideas from multidisciplinary teams of students, and linking their industry to academic work.

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REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

CHILDREN, SPECIFICALLY, ARE MOST EFFECTED BY VIOLENCE, with 50% of the world’s children experiencing violence every year\(^5\)\(^6\).

246 million children worldwide are affected by school-related violence each year\(^5\)\(^6\).

1 in 3 students have been bullied at school in the last month.

1 in 10 children have experienced cyberbullying.

Social protection has been significantly extended globally, yet PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ARE UP TO FIVE TIMES MORE LIKELY THAN AVERAGE TO INCUR CATASTROPHIC HEALTH EXPENDITURES\(^5\)\(^3\).

WOMEN ARE ALSO MORE LIKELY THAN MEN TO LIVE BELOW 50% OF THE MEDIAN INCOME.

In 2015, almost 54% of the global population lived in cities. This number is predicted to increase by 2030\(^5\)\(^4\).

82% of Canada’s population lives in cities and this is expected to grow\(^9\).

WITH RAPID URBANIZATION, CITIES ARE PRONE TO INADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ARE MORE VULNERABLE DISASTERS, while population growth also exerts pressure on fresh water supplies, sewage, the living environment, and public health\(^5\)\(^5\).
### HOW VIU CONTRIBUTES TO THE SDGS FOR PEACE

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SUPPORTING VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Centre for Community Outreach and Care

VIU’s Centre for Community Outreach and Care allows students to conduct research and develop programs that assist the community with issues related to youth at risk and in low socio-economic status. Each year, the Centre engages over 500 children in their programs. The Centre’s programs focus on a combination of factors such as providing youth with access to healthy and nutritious food, reducing the cycle of poverty, addressing trauma by providing youth with mental, spiritual, emotional, and physical support, bringing awareness to sexual abuse and exploitation, and supporting young families who have experienced abuse.

Universal Access Committee

Established in 2017, the Universal Access Committee is comprised of Directors from across VIU that work to raise funding and awareness for campus accessibility. Projects include:

- Upgraded wheelchair ramp on the Nanaimo campus
- Implementation of accessible bathrooms
- Nanaimo Campus Accessibility Map

Scholars at Risk Network

The Scholars at Risk Network invites scholars fleeing danger from their home country to be guest lecturers at VIU. The network not only protects scholars from dangerous conditions, but also allows them to continue their research or academic work in a safe place.

The Student Refugee Program, through a partnership between VIU and the World University Service of Canada (WUSC), aims to provide refugee students permanent residency and higher education. Since 2008, VIU has sponsored 2 students per year.

Programs & Courses

Centre for Intercultural Studies

Managed through the Faculty of International Education, the Centre for Intercultural Studies (CIS) focusses on Connecting Across Difference. The Centre offers courses, supports intercultural research, and provides professional development opportunities for VIU students and employees.

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VIU campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Snuneymuxw, Quw’utsun, Tla’Amin, Snaw-naw-as, and Qualicum First Nations, where VIU community members are given the opportunity to teach, learn, research, live, and share knowledge.

VIU is a place where history and traditions are acknowledged and deeply appreciated.

At VIU there are...

9 Elders-in-Residence
1,569 Aboriginal students

VIU has programs that offer social and cultural support:

First Nations Housing Manager Certificate
This program trains housing managers to assist communities with affordable, healthy, high quality, and well-maintained housing. Graduates of the program are qualified to work as on-reserve housing managers.

Indigenous/Xwulmuxw Studies
Within this program, cultural technicians from local Indigenous communities are hired to facilitate cultural activities such as Indigenous and settler’s relations, language, drumming, and singing.

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Language Revitalization and Digitization
Members of the VIU@Cowichan Lab worked with a Penelakut Elder and Hul’q’umi’num’ Instructor to digitize the Hul’q’umi’num’ language for use in school curriculum.

Programs & Courses
ENSURING PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION AS A TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE INSTITUTION

VIU aims to have responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making within the institution.

In **2016/2017**: VIU had...

- 1,227 employees
  - 37% were male
  - 63% were female
  - 20 to 30% were over the age of 55 years

**IN COMPARISON...**

In **Nanaimo**

- 48,215 people aged 15+ were employed in 2016 and of these people...
  - 50% were male
  - 50% were female

In **Canada**

- 17,230,040 people were employed in 2016 and of these people...
  - 52% were male
  - 48% were female

Comparing VIU’s population to both Nanaimo’s and Canada’s, it shows that in 2016/17 VIU had a higher proportion of employed females than in Nanaimo and Canada, which contributes to a lower proportion of employed males than Nanaimo and Canada.

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**Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program**

VIU is one of the first 5 universities in Canada to offer the Inside-Out Prison Exchange program. The program brings together university students and incarcerated students for semester-long learning, providing both inside and outside students with meaningful academic and experiential learning opportunities. VIU’s Inside-Out program has been running at the Nanaimo Correctional Centre since 2016 and funding from the Vancouver Foundation has helped the program expand to the Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre in Victoria.

VIU’s Criminology department currently offers two courses for the program:

- **CRIM 299** (Exploring Issues of Crime and Justice Behind the Walls)
- **CRIM 499** (From Social Exclusion to Social Inclusion)
Goal 17 was specifically developed TO SUPPORT AND ACHIEVE THE TARGETS OF THE PREVIOUS 16 GOALS THROUGH THE STRENGTHENING OF GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS. It has been globally recognized that the SDGs cannot be achieved without inclusive partnerships or without the mobilization of resources to assist each other, in particular developing nations, in pursuit of the Goals.
VIU’s Centre for Experiential Learning has also developed strong relationships with local, national, and international employers who have provided learning opportunities for students through co-operative entrepreneur education and internships. In 2018/2019, VIU had 556 community partners who sponsored work-integrated learning students with work terms in Australia, Canada, China, Egypt, France, Japan, Korea, Tanzania, and USA.

Each year at VIU, 15 field schools are held with approximately 300 student participants and 20 faculty members.

In 2018/2019, VIU had...
- 38 incoming exchange students
- 46 outgoing exchange students
- 32 international internships

International Cooperation Projects

VIU’s Faculty of International Education facilitates International Cooperation projects which aim to improve educational programs in partner countries through a capacity-building approach. Gender equality, human rights, and environmental issues are addressed in different ways through each project.

An ongoing partnership between VIU and Kisii National Polytechnic (KNP) in Kenya is working to develop a new building technology program at KNP, which involves developing the curriculum, training for teachers and technicians, and delivery of the program. This partnership is helping KNP to develop a teaching and learning centre, in addition to increasing cultural literacy and global citizenship amongst VIU faculty. This project also has a gender equality component, as participants are actively working to encourage women to work non-traditional jobs.

Other international cooperation projects include: Improving Skills Training for Employment Program (Tanzania Hospitality/Tourism), Brong Ahafo Research and Extension Centre (Ghana), LED Africa (Malawi), Tra Vinh University Partnership (Vietnam), Heart of Gold Project (Costa Rica), and Spatial Data Infrastructure Training Program (Ukraine).
Recreation Prescription Project

In 2018, VIU received a grant from Island Health to lead the Recreation Prescription Project in partnership with the City of Nanaimo Parks and Recreation, Division of Family Practice, and the Nanaimo Ladysmith School District. Within VIU, this project involved collaboration between the Nursing, Child and Youth Care, Recreation and Sport, and Sport Health and Physical Activity programs. The program developed through Recreation Prescription Project works with vulnerable schools in Nanaimo, involving approximately 120 school-aged children, to promote health, physical activity, and literacy among youth over a 16-week period.

The undertaking of the project exemplifies not only the benefit of forming partnerships, but also the interlinkages between the SDGs. The Recreation Prescription Project has relevance to indicators within Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 10, and 17.

CBAIR Program

The CBAIR (Community Based Applied Interdisciplinary Research) program partners student researchers with local organizations in an attempt to simultaneously address local issues while giving students the opportunity to practice their research skills. For example, students that participated in the program in the 2018/19 academic year partnered with Nanaimo Food Share, Zonta Club of Nanaimo, and Wildwood.

SDG Training Session at VIU

On November 30, 2019, a SDG Training Session was hosted at VIU’s Nanaimo campus. The event was hosted by MABRRI in collaboration with VIU’s Sustainability Advisory Committee, and the Foundation for Environmental Stewardship (FES).

The SDG Youth Training is one of two national projects FES is currently undertaking. Since the development of The SDG Youth Training project in 2017, FES HAS HOSTED 32 SESSIONS IN 77 POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS ACROSS CANADA, REACHING OVER 5,900 STUDENTS. The training sessions hosted by FES are a prime example of the importance and necessity of partnerships and collaborative work in the advancement of the SDG Agenda.
REFERENCES

United Nations, 2018-c


During this project, feedback from the VIU community was collected and used to guide the development of recommendations of how VIU can further meet the SDGs moving forward. These recommendations have been passed over to VIU’s Office of the President.

For more information you can read the Vancouver Island University & the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals report here:

https://mabrri.viu.ca/research-reports